

to recognize Chairman DAVIS, Ranking Member WAXMAN and Representatives MCHUGH and DAVIS for their fine work on this issue.

I am a cosponsor of H.R. 735, the House companion. This is an important bill that deserves the support of the entire House. If we fail to act, the Postal Service has warned that it will be forced to raise rates as early as this fall. This is something the public can not afford.

If the Postal Service continues to pay into the Civil Service Retirement System under the current rate structure, the Postal Service will overfund the system by about \$71 billion by the time its pension obligations expire in 2071. This bill gives the Postal Service credit for its excess assets and thus, reduces the amount of money that it needs to pay into the fund. This will have no effect on current or future retirees' pension benefits. In fact, the bill is strongly supported by the National Association of Letter Carriers and the business community.

The savings realized from the bill will allow the postal service to make needed upgrades to improve service. Additionally, the Postmaster has also promised to keep rates steady through 2006.

This bill is a complete slam dunk. It is good for the public, the letter carriers, and the mailing industry. I urge its passage.

IN HONOR OF ERIC J. TOPOL, M.D.

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 9, 2003*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Eric J. Topol, M.D.—Chief Academic Officer of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Chairman of the Department of Cardiovascular Medicine at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and Provost and Professor of Medicine at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University—as he is recognized by the American Heart Association for his leadership, achievement and vision that has placed Cleveland at the national and international summit of hope, possibility and success within the realm of cardiovascular treatment and research.

In collaboration with Dr. Edward H. Hundert and other medical visionaries, Dr. Topol helped shape the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of CWRU. This center of advancement, research and education in medicine promises to reflect the crowning achievements, breakthroughs and medical miracles that hold the cardiology program at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation as the nation's premier heart center. The Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine promises to delve into critical research and groundbreaking treatment programs without losing the humanity and sensitivity critical to successful patient care.

Since graduating from the University of Rochester School of Medicine in 1979, Dr. Topol's life's work has focused on the prevention, detection, treatment and research of cardiovascular disease. Dr. Topol's collaborative cardiology research, work, and remarkable achievements in cardiovascular medicine has improved the state of cardiac care for countless individuals of all ages, and has steadily raised the Cleveland community to the highest

levels of technological and medical advancement—in the eyes of the nation, in the eyes of the world, and within every being whose heart needs mending.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Eric J. Topol, M.D., whose leadership, foresight, and total commitment for the advancement of medicine has helped Cleveland earn international acclaim as the leading center of heart research and treatment—offering hope and healing for heart patients here in Cleveland, and around the globe.

TRIBUTE TO SARAH PEACOCK

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 9, 2003*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to a young student from my district, Sarah Peacock from Montrose, Colorado. A fifth grader at Oak Grove elementary school, Sarah is making a big difference for children around the world with her quilting skills, and today I would like to honor her accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

Instead of asking for presents for her tenth birthday, Sarah asked for quilting supplies. With those supplies she has made six blankets for Project Linus, a volunteer organization that provides blankets to children who are either seriously ill or who are emotionally traumatized. Sarah's blankets are among the more than 400,000 security blankets Project Linus has shipped around the world since 1995. Sarah heard about the project from a teacher at her elementary school who was teaching her kindergarten class about quilting and with that introduction, Sarah took to the craft immediately. Along the way, her blankets have earned grand champion honors at the Montrose County Fair and fourth place at the Colorado State Fair.

Mr. Speaker, Sarah Peacock is clearly a determined and gifted young woman. Even at such a young age, her volunteer efforts are reaching children around the world, and it is my great honor to recognize her hard work before this body of Congress and this nation today. Sarah has great things ahead of her, and I wish her every success in the future.

WE SHOULD MAKE OUR REMARKS  
WITH CARE

**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 9, 2003*

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, with regard to the remarks of our colleague, Ms. CUBIN, today, I want to express my lack of support for their tone and substance. In this temple of democracy, we should make our arguments with care and concern for the feelings of all Americans.

TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE JESSICA  
LYNCH ON NATIONAL FORMER  
PRISONER OF WAR RECOGNITION  
DAY

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 9, 2003*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to America's heroes on National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day.

The holiday is all the more poignant this year. This year the world celebrated the rescue of POW Private Jessica Lynch from an Iraqi hospital. This brave West Virginia woman fought capture as she watched her comrades die next to her. West Virginians are especially proud of the rescue of one of our own and proud of the troops, including some of West Virginia's own National Guard, who went in to save her. We are particularly grateful of West Virginia Air National Guard Major Harry Morgan Freeman Jr. of Chapmanville who helped deliver the SEALs to the hospital where Lynch was held and then flew the group to safety. This was a truly remarkable moment for West Virginia's service men and women.

We may never know all the details of the ordeal Private Lynch endured while held in Iraqi captivity. Like so many POWs before her, not only are the physical wounds to heal but mental and spiritual. As Americans, it is our duty to welcome back these heroes who fought for our freedom. We must give all of our returned POWs the support they require and deserve and share with them our pride in their sacrifice to the Nation. We give thanks to God for the return of our POWs and ask Him to watch over our soldiers and our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO DR. LYUSHUN SHEN

**HON. ROBERT WEXLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 9, 2003*

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, for the past several years, Dr. Lyushun Shen has served as Deputy Representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office ("TECRO") here in Washington. TECRO is Taiwan's unofficial embassy in the United States and works to strengthen the already strong ties between the United States and Taiwan. Dr. Shen has been an important diplomat in TECRO's ongoing mission, and he has been a prominent participant in the ongoing dialogue between the United States Congress and the Taiwanese government.

This is Dr. Shen's third posting in Washington, and, although he has developed a strong network of friends in Washington, the Taiwanese government has decided to name him as Director General of TECRO's office in Geneva, Switzerland. In his new position, Dr. Shen will work to enhance Taiwan's position with the many international organizations based there including the World Health Organization, which still does not count this vibrant democracy as a member, despite the strong endorsement of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, those of us who have come to know Dr. Shen will miss our discussions with him and his passion commitment to U.S.-Taiwan relations. While we regret he will be leaving Washington shortly, we know that he will